QUERY CENTRAL
Concept & Overview – February 2000

Query Central (QC) is the working name for a third generation intelligent query system designed to dramatically increase the power of safety information requests from State and Federal law enforcement at the roadside or during carrier compliance reviews. The system would essentially combine the functions of the Inspection Selection System (ISS), The Commercial Driver License Information System (CDLIS), and the Past Inspection Query (PIQ). It might also incorporate carrier/vehicle credential information and even "State specific" information systems. QC would become a critical front-end for the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's CVISN architecture.

Two driving ideas behind QC are:

1. Simplify the query process so the end user only need make a single query to access a wide spectrum of related safety information. Information delivery would be tiered to allow easy "drill down" into more detail, but without forcing uneeded detail to the user.

2. Use inferential links within the data to provide probable related information to the user on demand. For example. A vehicle license plate query, would bring details about the carrier, probable driver(s), past history of inspections, and permit status.

BORDER BENEFITS -- Query Central would be particularly useful on the U.S. border where traffic congestion and little know foreign operators require delivery of maximum information content with minimal effort.   A successful effort in this area will have significant impact on safety by improving traffic screening and reducing delays.

ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY – Query Central would use the latest web technology and be optimized for wireless operation. It would be a browser based system and deliver data over a secure virtual private network. Secondary queries to separate information systems would be transparent to the user and be handled at the server level. Delivered data elements would auto-populate local data collection systems and speed task completion.

AVAILABILITY -- The system would be made available to all State and Federal law enforcement operations by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA). It would be operated by the FMCSA using both State and Federal data.

A LOGICAL NEXT STEP -- Most of the components and data sources for Query Central are already in place. Most of the Information validity issues have already been tested.   QC is an incremental development with revolutionary potential.